

TRIPARTITE COMMITTEE

Highlights of the meeting
held on
April 15 and 16, 2015
Montreal



The Tripartite Committee is made up of community organizations including school boards, provincial and territorial Ministries of Education in Canada as well as some federal ministries including Canadian Heritage and Citizenship and Immigration Canada.

They are key stakeholders with a vested interest in French-language education in minority settings.

UPDATE ON THE PROGRESS BY THE WORKING GROUPS



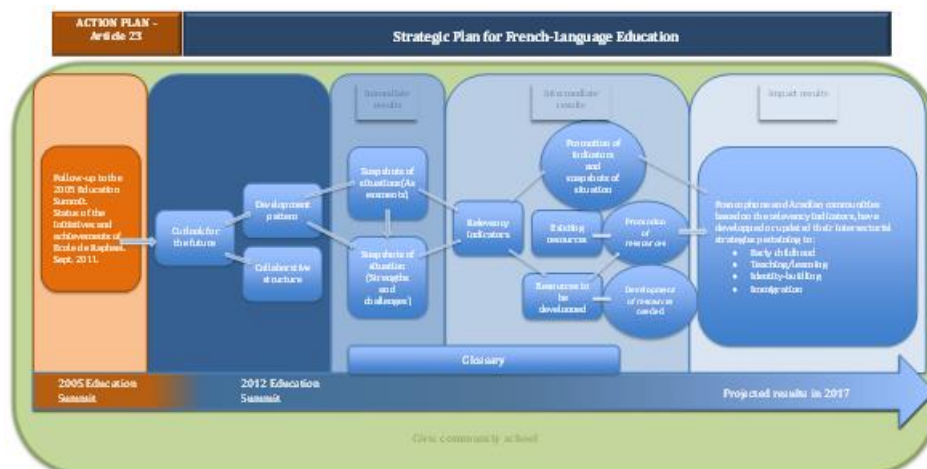
Members of the Tripartite Committee first took stock of the progress made as part of the development and implementation of the Strategic Plan for French-Language Education commonly referred to in French as PSELF. This update stems from the monitoring chart which can be found under the heading *Contexte* of the PSELF website. As shown in the chart outlining the various stages for the implementation of the Strategic Plan for French-language Education, the working groups are in the midst of developing communication tools to promote key messages from the plan, relevant indicators for the four identified priority areas as well as existing resources to support the strategic objectives of the plan.

Participants were invited to watch two short videos outlining key messages from the Strategic Plan for French-Language Education.

They were also presented with a quick overview of recent changes made to the plan's website.

www.psself.ca

One can find the various communication tools developed to promote the plan under a new section titled *Je passe à l'action* which means Time to take action. Soon under this section, one will also be able to find practical ideas on how to contribute to the plan. Key stakeholders are encouraged to check regularly the website for updates.



Participants had a chance to reflect through small discussion groups on the proposed scripts for the short videos to promote each of the four identified key priorities (early childhood, teaching/learning, identity-building and immigration) and the relevant indicators related to each of these areas. Comments from the participants will be taken into account for the production of the videos which will eventually be available on the website under *Je passe à l'action*.

Briefing by Tripartite Committee members on their activities

During the meeting, some participants had a chance to explain how the strategic objectives of their organization are tied with the Strategic Plan for French-Language Education.



Presented by Richard Lacombe, executive director of the Canadian Association of French Language Education.

Mr. Lacombe presented a new feature on identity-building hosted on his organization's website. It entails a virtual counsellor who acts as a guide to allow users to discover the various tools available on this theme for training and professional development as well as a directory of all resources developed on identity-building over the years by his organization.

Presented by Josée Vaillancourt, executive director of the French Canadian Youth Federation

Mrs. Vaillancourt outlined the main activities of her organization. She explained how the relevant indicators of the Strategic Plan for French-Language Education are intertwined with activities held by her organization on identity-building and teaching/learning. She reminded participants about her organization's motto *By and for young people*.



Presented by Maggy Razafimbahiny, executive director of the French-Canadian Cultural Federation

Mrs. Razafimbahiny gave an overview of her organization's new strategic planning. She explained how the arts and culture sector can play a key role in fostering identity-building and learning among teenagers with the support of key stakeholders in the education field. As a successful collaboration between the two sectors, she pointed to the *Trousse du passeur culturel* which explains the determining role educational professionals can play in strengthening the sense of identity among students.



Specificity, vitality and added-value of French-language schools

Members of the Tripartite Committee took part in a brainstorming exercise on the characteristics of French-language schools in minority settings.

M. Pierre Bourbeau from the Centre canadien de leadership en évaluation hosted the session which focused on the specificity, vitality and added-value of French-language schools. The input from the discussion will help the National Federation of French-Language School Boards to draft its next strategic plan for 2015-2020.

Focus on Immigration

Members of the Tripartite Committee first took a look at the latest version of the chart outlining key resources on immigration before attending a series of presentations on successful practices related to immigration in French-language schools.

SWIFT

Presented by Jean Viel from Immigration and Citizenship Canada.

Mr. Viel gave an overview of the Settlement Workers in Schools program in French-language schools. He underlined the importance of creating through this program a close connection between newcomers and French-speaking communities where they have chosen to settle. Mr. Viel told participants that his ministry will soon send out requests for proposals to furthermore develop this program in French-language schools outside Quebec.

Presented by Mr. Jean-Marie Nzoro Munoko, settlement worker in French-language schools. Mr. Munoko works for the Toronto Francophone Centre. Mr. Munoko explained the numerous advantages of working with new students and their families to ease their integration both at school and into their new country of adoption. He pointed as well some challenges such as the lack of facilities in schools to hold activities to help immigrant students.

PROGRAMME D'APPUI AUX NOUVEAUX ARRIVANTS

Presented by Mr. Boniface Mukendi, Providence Catholic School Board.

Mr. Mukendi is responsible of a school board program called PANA which welcomes and helps newcomers and their families. The program is meant to ease the integration of newly arrived immigrants. During his presentation, he insisted on the importance to help the settlement of immigrants, in particular refugees, to ensure their well-being and their successful integration into Canadian society.

RÉSEAU DE SOUTIEN À L'IMMIGRATION FRANCOPHONE

Presented by Mrs Brigitte Duguay-Langlais, responsible for the coordination of the RSIF of Eastern Ontario.

Mrs. Duguay-Langlais explained the mandate and key role of the network of organizations supporting francophone immigration is playing in ensuring the successful settlement of French-speaking immigrants in Canada outside the province of Quebec. She pointed out the need to furthermore develop services for newly arrived French-speaking immigrants in rural areas of Canada.

Finally, members of the Tripartite Committee discussed a proposal to hold a third Summit on education. The event would be held in 2017. It would be an opportunity to take stock of the progress made since the Strategic Plan for French-Language Education was developed, to underline the success of the past few years in French-language education as well as to mobilize the various key stakeholders towards the current plan. Members indicated their willingness to pursue the idea of holding such a summit.